(viii) Government have also launched Antyodaya Anna Yojana on 25-12-2000. Under this scheme, Government will release wheat and rice @ Rs. 2/- and Rs. 3/- per kg. respectively subject to 25 kg. per family per month to approximately one crore poorest of the poor families all over the country, and the State Governments have accordingly been requested to identify these families.

(ix) Certain measures have been taken by the Food Corporation of India to reduce costs, *viz.*, reduction in inccurrence of shortages, demurrages, better utilisation of storage space etc.

The Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) recommended use of synthetic bags for packaging of rice (Point 31 of the First Report of ERC). The Government has ordered for 100% compulsory packaging foodgrains and sugar in Jute bags for the year 2001-2002. Jute, in terms of the Jute Packaging Material Act, 1987. An Inter-Ministerial Committee was constituted on 31-8-2001 to formulate a road map for the progressive dilution of compulsory packaging norms for foodgrains and sugar under the JPM Act, 1987.

Raw sugar for export

2629. SHRI ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether raw variety of sugar is on demand for export;

(b) if so, the incentives proposed to be given for producing raw sugar in bulk for export; and

(c) the other incentives proposed to be given as subsidy to boost sugar exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The share of raw sugar in the world export market is about 58% of the total export in the calendar years 1999 and 2000 as per the statistical information published by the International Sugar Organisation. India, however, exports generally plantation white sugar and export of raw sugar from India is very small.

(b) Loan from the Sugar Development Fund at concessional rate of interest is available to sugar factories intending to change their process for manufacture raw sugar/refined sugar.

(c) In order to boost export of sugar from India, the Government has taken the following measures :

(i) The sugar meant for export has been exempted from the levy obligation.

(ii) The quantity of sugar released for export is treated as advance free-sale release to be adjusteed in the free sale stocks of the sugar factories after a period of 12 months, which has now been increased to 18 months.

(iii) The levy exemption on the quantity meant for commercial export of sugar, if it cannot be claimed by the sugar factories out of the sugar season from which the sugar is released to them due to completion of their levy obligations, the same can be availed by the concerned sugar factories from their production of next sugar season..

(iv) DEPB at the rate of 5% of the f.o.b. value of export of sugar has been allowed.

(v) Hitherto only mill white sugar was being exported. It has been clarified that in addition to mill white sugar the sugar mills/exporters can also export raw sugar under the present EXIM policy.

(vi) Government has decided to undertake legislation to amend the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 to enable it, *inter alia,* to utilize the Sugar Development Fund for defraying expenditure on internal transport and freight charges to the sugar factories on export shipment of sugar.

Availability of Sugar

†2630. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that availability of sugar is more than its consumption in the country;

(b) if so, since when such situation has arisen;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is no need of any Government control on sugar industry now; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction in this regard and by when Government would take any decision with regard to decontrolling of sugar industry?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.